

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

Mr. Mark Sessums Sessums Law Group 2212 South Florida Avenue Lakeland, Florida 33803

OCT 16 2018

RE: Freedom of Information Request No. EPA-R4-2018-011551

Dear Mr. Sessums:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 19, 2018, regarding property on Kuder Ranch Road in Davenport, Florida. Specifically, you are seeking information regarding requests by Osprey Unit LLC or M. Lance Holden, for a Mitigation Bank permit on the property.

Enclosed are documents maintained by the EPA, Region 4. The cost for providing this information has been waived as <u>de minimis</u>.

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may appeal this response by email at ha.foia@epa.gov, or by mail to the EPA's National FOIA Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2310A), Washington, DC 20460 or through FOIAonline if you are an account holder. If you are submitting your appeal by hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 5315, Washington, DC 20460. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 90-calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at hq.foia@epa.gov or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email, ogis@nara.gov; telephone, (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; or fax, (202) 741-5769.

Should you have questions regarding this response, please contact Jennifer Pearce, Government Information Specialist, at (404) 562-8600.

Sincerely,

Kristy H. Eubanks

Acting Assistant Regional Administrator

Enclosures

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION INDEX OF RELEASED DOCUMENTS

EPA-R4-2018-011551

1. 04/03/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE regarding Osprey Unit MB – Revised Propectus
2. 06/30/2014	Email and attachment from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE, Constance Cassler, FWS, and Ben Shephard regarding comments – Attachment – Letter from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE regarding comments (Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank, SAJ-2013-03454 dated 05/04/2015
3. 05/04/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE regarding EPA comments
4. 04/28/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE regarding Osprey Unit 3:35:31 pm
5. 04/28/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE regarding Osprey Unit 3:44:44 pm
6. 04/03/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE, Constance Cassler, FWS, Bonnie Irving regarding Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus
7. 06/13/2014	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE and Constance Cassler, FWS regarding Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank – 11:53:55 am
8. 05/20/2014	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE and Constance Cassler, FWS regarding Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank
9. 06/13/2014	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Teresa Frame, COE and Constance Cassler, FWS regarding Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank – 12:34:40 pm
10. 06/26/2014	Letter to Teresa Frame, COE from Ron Miedema, EPA regarding Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank, SAJ-2013-03454
11. 07/21/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Erin Gawera and Amy Thompson, COE regarding Boarshead Ranch Littoral Zone Credits
12. 07/13/2015	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Amy Thompson, COE regarding Boarshead Ranch Littoral Zone Credits
13. 05/28/2014	Email from Ron Miedema, EPA to Carrie Bond and Teresa Frame, COE regarding Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank

Schulz, Mark

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESA? (US)

Subject:

[EXTERNAL] FW: Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 9:23:34 AM

Teresa.

I am available on April 22, 28 and 29. I assume you send a meeting notification once the date is finalized. If you should have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thanks

Mark A. Schulz
Wildlife Biologist
Office of Conservation Planning Services
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
3900 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811
Office: (863) 648-3820
Mobile: (863) 581-6914
mark.schulz@myfwc.com

----Original Message-----

From: Conservation Planning Services Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 3:41 PM

To: Schulz, Mark

Subject: FW: Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus (UNCLASSIFIED)

Just fyi. :))

Jane Chabre

Conservation Planning Services Coordinator Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Conservation Planning Services
620 S. Meridian Road, MB 5B5
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 410-5367

----Original Message----

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto:Miedema.Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 11:20 AM

To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'; Bonnie Irving; Conservation Planning Services Subject: RE: Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus (UNCLASSIFIED)

Teresa, Only day open for me is April 28. Ron

----Original Message----

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ [mailto:Teresa M.Frame@hsace.armv.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:44 AM

To: Miedema, Ron; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'; Bonnie Irving;

FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com

Subject: Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Good Afternoon IR Team,

The Corps received a revised prospectus for a proposed 676-acre mitigation bank in Polk County, identified as Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank. The public notice was posted March 31 and comment period ends April 29. A site visit is required to further evaluate the proposed project. Please let me know your availability for April 15, 22, 28 or 29 and I will coordinate the best available date for all participants.

The revised prospectus may be downloaded from the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) at web address: https://ribits.usace.army.mil. Once on the RIBITS homepage, select "Jacksonville" from the "ALL DISTRICTS" drop down menu located in the lower left corner of the screen. Once the district filter has been selected, click on the "Existing Banks & ILF Sites" link located in the Navigation box (upper left corner). This will generate a list of projects, scroll down the list and click on the "Osprey Unit MB" link. On this page, click on the "Cyber Repository" link located on the menu bar above the General Information description, then click on the prospectus folder to access the revised prospectus.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Teresa M. Frame
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
(904) 232-1677
(904) 232-1904 fax

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Jr.

From:

Miedema, Ron

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESAI (US); "Constance Cassler@fws.gov"; Shepherd, Ben

Subject: Date: [EXTERNAL] Osprey Unit MB comments

Attachments:

Monday, June 30, 2014 6:05:38 AM

3288_001.pdf

Please find attached my comments

From: rogers.jan@epa.gov [mailto:rogers.jan@epa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:53 AM

To: Miedema, Ron Subject: Attached Image



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SOUTH FLORIDA OFFICE
400 NORTH CONGRESS AVE., SUITE 120
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401

May 4, 2015

Department of the Army Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers Attn: Teresa Frame P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank; SAJ-2013-03454

Dear Ms. Frame:

This letter is in response to permit application number SAJ-2013-03454 submitted by M. Lance and Mia Holden. The sponsor proposes to enhance and preserve 611.49 acres of wetlands and uplands for the purpose of generating mitigation credits. The sponsor proposes to use these mitigation credits to offset wetland impacts within the Ocklawaha Basin. The proposed site is currently used for cattle grazing and recreational boating. The proposed project is located at a reclaimed sand mine site, in Sections 23, 26, and 35, Township 26 South, Range 26 East, Polk County, Florida.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of this project from information contained in the revised Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank Prospectus and a site visit conducted on April 28, 2015. This letter summarizes the EPA's position on the project, concentrating especially on the <u>Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule</u>, dated April 10, 2008. The letter also requests the sponsor provide the following information regarding the EPA concerns for the proposed Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank.

- a. The EPA is encouraged that the project has been revised to be implemented in 1Phase only.
- b. The EPA still has concerns that the sandy soils on the site may not be suitable for upland and wetland restoration. However the applicant has proposed to bring in topsoil, which may reduce the risk associated with this activity.
- c. The EPA believes no mitigation credits shall be generated from any littoral shelf and open water/lake enhancement activities. These activates do not provide in-kind mitigation to offset wetland impacts. Furthermore, this type of activates are no longer accepted as compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts.
- d. Limited detail was be provided on the wetland creation/preservation/enhancement and upland enhancement that may occur. Based on these observation, the EPA has concerns that the

bank may generate minimal mitigation credits.

- e. Water quality would still be impacted at the site due to the adjacent cattle grazing which the sponsor does not control. In addition, it may be impossible for the sponsor to limit adjacent cattle from entering the proposed bank site.
- f. It appears a majority of the bank's forested wetlands will be preserved. The EPA requests the sponsor provide documentation that all five criteria have been met for preservation to be used as compensatory mitigation.
- g. Wetland 4 needs further review to determine the appropriate action necessary to provide ecological benefit for generating mitigation credits.
- h. It is unclear to the EPA how the site will be fenced in order to restrict unauthorized access to the site.
- i. What restrictions will be placed on recreation boating/lake use at the site since the sponsor does not have complete control of this activity? What is proposed for the dock and boat launching area at the site?

Thank you for providing an opportunity for EPA to comment on this authorization. If you should have any questions, please contact Ron Miedema at 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 120, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 or by telephone at 561-616-8741.

Sincerely,

Ron Miedema

Life Scientist

EPA, South Florida Field Office

cc: Ms. Connie Cassler, FWS, Vero Beach, FL Mr. Mark Schulz, FWC, Lakeland, FL



Miedema, Ron

To:

Subject:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESA1 (US); "Constance Cassier@fws.gov"; "Schulz, Mark"

Subject Date: [EXTERNAL] Osprey Unit Comments Monday, May 4, 2015 9:49:27 AM

Attachments:

3440_001.pdf

Please find attached the EPA comments on the revised prospectus and site visit last week.

Ron

EPA



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SOUTH FLORIDA OFFICE
400 NORTH CONGRESS AVE., SUITE 120
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401

May 4, 2015

Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Teresa Frame
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank; SAJ-2013-03454

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Sincerely,

Ron Miedema Life Scientist

EPA, South Florida Field Office

cc: Ms. Connie Cassler, FWS, Vero Beach, FL Mr. Mark Schulz, FWC, Lakeland, FL ¥.

From:

Miedema, Ron

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESA1 (US)

Subject:

[EXTERNAL] Osprey Unit

Date

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:35:31 PM

Teresa, Today I participated in the site visit with the Lance (owner) and Jason (consultant). It turned out to be a great day both with the weather and the site visit. Need to talk when you are available.

Thanks,

Ron

Miedema, Ron

To: Subject:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESAI (US)
[EXTERNAL] Re: Osprey Unit (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:44:44 PM

11:00 am would probably be safer. (for a call)

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ < Teresa.M.Frame@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:41 PM

To: Miedema, Ron.

Subject: RE: Osprey Unit (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hi Ron,

Glad to hear that it worked out. It really looked like some bad weather was going to be over that area. I will be back in the office tomorrow and can give you a call around 10:00am? I received several emails from the neighbor which I will send to IRT.

Teresa M. Frame
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
(904) 232-1677
(904) 232-1904 fax

----Original Message----

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto:Miedema.Ron@eps.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:35 PM

To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Osprey Unit

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Thanks,

题

Ron

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

From;

Mledema, Ron

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CTV USARMY CESAJ (US); "Constance Cassler@fws.gov"; Bonnie Irving;

FWCConservationPlanningServices@MvFWC com

Subject:

[EXTERNAL] RE: Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Friday, April 3, 2015 11:19:47 AM

Teresa, Only day open for me is April 28. Ron

----Original Message-----

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ [mailto:Teresa M.Frame@usace.army.mii]

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:44 AM

To: Miedema, Ron; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'; Bonnie Irving;

FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com

Subject: Osprey Unit MB - Revised Prospectus (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Good Afternoon IR Team,

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The revised prospectus may be downloaded from the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) at web address: https://ribits.usace.army.mil. Once on the RIBITS homepage, select "Jacksonville" from the "ALL DISTRICTS" drop down menu located in the lower left corner of the screen. Once the district filter has been selected, click on the "Existing Banks & ILF Sites" link located in the Navigation box (upper left corner). This will generate a list of projects, scroll down the list and click on the "Osprey Unit MB" link. On this page, click on the "Cyber Repository" link located on the menu bar above the General Information description, then click on the prospectus folder to access the revised prospectus.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Teresa M. Frame
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
(904) 232-1677
(904) 232-1904 fax

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

The

From:

Miedema, Ron

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESA1.(US); "Constance Cassler@fws.gov"

Ccr

Bond, Carrie I CTV (ISARMY CENWP (US)

Subject:

[EXTERNAL] RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Friday, June 13, 2014 11:53:55 AM

Where are we meeting at? Still on for 10:30?

----Original Message-----

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ [mailto:Teresa M Frame@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 4:20 PM

To: Miedema, Ron; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'

Cc: Bond, Carrie L SAJ

Subject: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hello Ron and Connie.

The Corps received the attached prospectus for a proposed 584-acre mitigation bank in Polk County, identified as Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank. The public notice was posted May 9 and comment period ends June 8. I will email any comments to the public notice as I receive them. A site visit is required to further evaluate the proposed project and I would like to start coordinating the site visit for mid June. The consultant is available June 16, 18 or 19. If that week is not available please let me know your earliest available dates and I will coordinate with the consultant. Carrie Bond will be conducting the site visit for me so please include Carrie in any responses.

I have attached a copy of the public notice and the prospectus (minus maps and figures). The complete set of maps and figures for the prospectus cannot be emailed due to the size of the files. All maps and figures for the proposed project are available for review at the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) web address: http://ribits.usace.army.mil. To access the Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank information in RIBITS, select "Jacksonville" from the "ALL DISTRICTS" dropdown menu, click on "Existing Banks and ILF Sites", select "Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank" from the populated list, and click on "Cyber Repository" (located on upper right section of webpage) to view the prospectus and all attachments, click on the prospectus folder.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Teresa M. Frame
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
(904) 232-1677
(904) 232-1904 fax

Watch the Corps website (http://www.sai.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/ItemsofInterest.aspx) for dates, locations, and other information on the upcoming round of Regulatory Open Houses.

Please assist us in better serving you! Please complete the customer survey by clicking on the following link: http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Miedema, Ron

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESA) (US); "Constance Cassier@fws.cov"

Cc: Subject: Bond Carrie I CTV IISARMY CENTURY (LIS)

[EXTERNAL] RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 7:22:56 AM

June 18 or 19 is good for me

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ < Teresa.M.Frame@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 4:19 PM

To: Miedema, Ron; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'

Cc: Bond, Carrie L SAJ

Subject: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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Please call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you, Teresa M. Frame U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019 (904) 232-1677 (904) 232-1904 fax

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Mledema, Ron

To:

Frame, Teresa Marie CTV USARMY CESA1 (US); "Constance Cassier@fws.gov"

Cct

Bond, Carrie L CTV USARMY CENWP (US)

Subject:

[EXTERNAL] RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Friday, June 13, 2014 12:34:40 PM

Thank You, Have a great weekend. Ron

----Original Message----

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ [mailto:Teresa M.Frame@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 12:15 PM

To: Miedema, Ron; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'

Cc: Bond, Carrie L SAJ

Subject: RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Site visit is on schedule for 10:30 on June 18. Attached are the driving directions.

Thank you,

Teresa M. Frame

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

(904) 232-1677

(904) 232-1904 fax

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SOUTH FLORIDA OFFICE
400 NORTH CONGRESS AVE., SUITE 120
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401

June 26, 2014

Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Attn: Teresa Frame
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank; SAJ-2013-03454

Dear Ms. Frame:

This letter is in response to permit application number SAJ-2013-03454 submitted by M. Lance and Mia Holden. The sponsor proposes to enhance and preserve 584 acres of wetlands and uplands for the purpose of generating mitigation credits. The sponsor proposes to use these mitigation credits to offset wetland impacts within the Ocklawaha Basin. The proposed site is currently used for cattle grazing and recreational boating. The proposed project is located at a reclaimed sand mine site, in Sections 23, 26, and 35, Township 26 South, Range 26 East, Polk County, Florida.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of this project from information contained in the Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank Prospectus and a site visit conducted on June 18, 2014. This letter summarizes the EPA's position on the project, concentrating especially on the <u>Federal Compensatory Mitigation Rule</u>, dated April 10, 2008. The letter also requests the sponsor provide the following information regarding the EPA concerns for the proposed Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank.

- a. As proposed, the site is to be implemented in 2 phases. The EPA has concerns that if phase 2 is not implemented, the bank will not have connectivity to adjacent conservation lands an make the site not appropriate as a mitigation bank.
- b. The EPA has concerns that the sandy soils on the site may not be suitable for upland and wetland restoration. The soils are a very fine sand that drain quickly and contain minimal nutrient value for vegetative growth.
- c. The EPA requests the sponsor provide all documentation related to the reclamation required at the site once sand mine operations ceased. This is to insure the proposed mitigation bank is not in conflict the reclamation plan.

- d. The main emphasis described during the site visit centered on the control of exotic and nuisance species. Limited detail could be provided on the wetland restoration and upland enhancement that may occur. Based on these observation, the EPA believes the bank would generate minimal mitigation credits. The EPA believes the sponsor should consider removing or narrowing the berms and roads throughout the site. This would generate additional credit and provide connectively between adjacent wetlands.
- e. Water quality would still be impacted at the site due to the adjacent cattle grazing which the sponsor does not control. In addition, it may be impossible for the sponsor to limit adjacent cattle from entering the proposed bank site.
- f. It appears a majority of the bank's forested wetlands will be preserved. The EPA requests the sponsor provide documentation that all five criteria have been met for preservation to be used as compensatory mitigation.
- g. Control of exotic and nuisance species within the lake may be a continued issue for the bank as the sponsor does not have control of the entire system.
- h. Other than cattle removal, minimal hydrological improves will occur at the site. These minimal improvements may be offset by the adjacent land uses.

In conclusion, the EPA has concerns that the proposed Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank may not be appropriate for development into a mitigation bank. The EPA requests the sponsor consider further ecological restoration efforts within the site to insure wetland benefits are maximized to the most extend practicable.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for EPA to comment on this authorization. At this time, EPA requests additional information to facilitate our evaluation of this project. We look forward to receiving more information from you. If you should have any questions, please contact Ron Miedema at 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 120, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 or by telephone at 561-616-8741.

Sincerely,

Ron Miedema

Life Scientist

EPA, South Florida Field Office

cc: Ms. Connie Cassler, FWS, Vero Beach, FL Mr. Ben Shepherd, FWC, Orlando, FL

Griffin, Jon M SAJ

To:

"Miedema. Ron"; Erin Gawera

Ce

Thompson, Amy D CTV USARMY CESAI (US); Huber, Marie i. SAI; Frame, Teresa Marie CTV USARMY CESAI (US);

Minos. Thomas S CIV USARMY CESAJ (US); Gerena, Vivian CIV USARMY CESAJ (US)

Subject: Date:

Littoral Zone Credits (UNCLASSIFIED) Tuesday, July 21, 2015 9:37:08 AM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Amy,

Thank you for letting me join the discussion.

Ron,

From the Capt Obvious stance, we can not just say no to any Sponsor's proposal associated with littoral zone work (enhancement or creation). If we can provide supportive information to provide negative comments on the proposal, that is another matter. Another thing to consider with these proposals is that they are associated with the establishment of larger compensatory mitigation areas and will be (hopefully) in conjunction with the surrounding wetland/upland ecosystems that are also being managed to provide an improved/increase ecological benefit thus providing a greater potential for success. In the past, most (if not all) of the littoral zone compensatory mitigation proposals were associated with mining permits and were essentially stand-alone projects. And many did fail as you noted.

But, as Erin stated littoral zone creation/enhancement could have some potential for generating lift since the created/improved system could provide foraging grounds for birds and other wildlife which can not use the deeper waters. These areas also provide habitat and foraging communities for the aquatic species living in the lake/pond.

As most of you have also noted, if credits are provided, we need to determine how they will be allowed to be used. That is a bit more difficult. Since we are trying to have all credits generated at the Bank and ILF projects be classified under the Classification Categories we established a few years ago, we need to think about where they fit. Because of the presence of water and the type of vegetation typically found, it would be easy to say the systems resemble a wet meadow or marsh. It is possible that we may have a larger marsh system that feeds into a lake across an area that could also be called a littoral zone. If you look at the Cowardin system, the only mention of the word "Littoral" is as a subsystem in the Lacustrine classification. In the Corps' Guide to Selected Wetland Communities (which is the basis for our classification categories), lake systems are greater than 20 acres in size and fall under the Lacustrine classification, however, ponds are less than 20 acres in size and fall under the Palustrine classification. Following that line of thought, any credits generated by a littoral zone project could fall under either category.

I would propose letting these types of credits fall under our Palustrine Emergent Classification Category. This covers Wet Prairies, Savannahs, Shallow Marshes and Deep Marshes encompassing FLUCCS codes 640/641/643/644/646. Does this seem broad, maybe a bit, but the thought process in developing the Classification Categories was to try and leave enough room for the Sponsors to be able to sell the credits as a community type without making them so specific that they would be unable to sell some of the credits unless we started making case by case determinations to allow out-of-kind sales but not so broad as to just say "The bank has credits that they can sell to offset any impact in any system." Additionally, since we are looking at the Classification Category as the type of compensatory mitigation required, I am not sure we can say that the Palustrine Emergent credits have to be associated with a littoral zone project if you want to use them for your boatramp project. Palustrine Emergent would equal Palustrine Emergent. If the IRT want to ensure that credits generated by a littoral zone project are used only to offset littoral zone impacts, then we are going to have to create a subset category of Palustrine Emergent credits to be able to track them. And, the IRT needs to be aware that at some point in the future, if those credits have not sold, there will be a push from the Sponsor to allow them to be used to offset normal Palustrine Emergent impacts. Just my thoughts for the IRT to consider.

----Original Message----

From: Thompson, Amy D SAJ

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 8:17 AM

To: Griffin, Jon M SAJ

Subject: FW: Boarshead Ranch Littoral Zone Credits (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Fyi

----Original Message----

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto:Miedema.Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 7:21 AM
To: Erin Gawera; Thompson, Amy D SAJ
Cc: Frame, Teresa M SAJ; Huber, Marie L SAJ

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Boarshead Ranch Littoral Zone Credits (UNCLASSIFIED)

The littoral shelf mitigation issues has just came up within the past year with now three MB requesting it. The three are Boarshead, Osprey Unit, and Hilochee.

This should not be surprising news to the Corps since the EPA has expressed this concern on all three early in the permitting process.

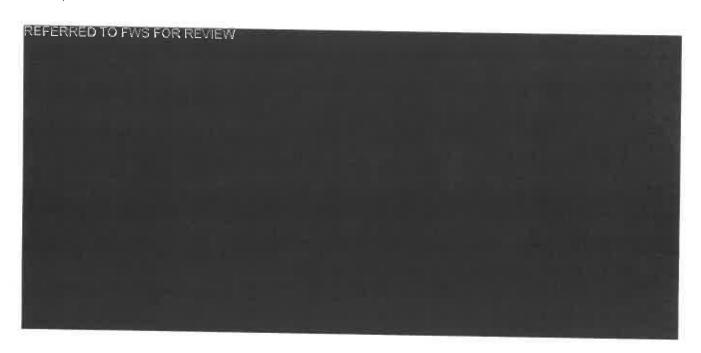
As I mentioned early, we (the Corps West Palm Beach Field Office) stopped allowing littoral shelf mitigation to offset wetlands impacts because they were not in-kind mitigation and continued to be a non-compliance problem (exotic and nuisance species).

As for Blackwater Creek, I cannot speak for that bank because it was way before my time.

Again, I wish the IRT to consider if credit is allowed for this type of habitat, the impacts should also be the same. (Boat ramps and associated infrastructure)

Thank you,

Ron





---Original Message---

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto: Miedema.Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 4:07 PM

To: Thompson, Amy D SAJ

Cc: Erin Gawera

Subject: Re: Boarshead Ranch Littoral Zone Credits (UNCLASSIFIED)

No, just common sense based past permitting experience will working for the Corps that this is not in-kind mitigation for wetland impacts. If credits should be warranted, give them for those type of impacts. I believe Clark was in line with my discussion on this issue.

Hope this helps.

Ron

From: Thompson, Amy D SAJ <Amy.D.Thompson@usace.army mil>

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 2:23 PM

To: Miedema, Ron

Subject: Boarshead Ranch Littoral Zone Credits (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hey Ron,

I was just discussing the Boarshead Ranch IRT meeting with Jon. I mentioned the question regarding credits for enhancing the existing littoral zones. Does EPA have a written policy that excludes these areas from receiving credits in a mitigation bank?

Thanks,

Amy

Amy D. Thompson
Biologist/Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019
Office: (904) 232-3974

Office: (904) 232-3974 Fax: (904) 232-1904

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Miedema, Ron

To:

Bond, Carrie L CIV USARMY CENWP (US); Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESAJ (US)

Cc:

Cassier, Constance

Subject:

RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 10:10:56 AM

Yes June 18 at 10:30 am

----Original Message----

From: Bond, Carrie L SAJ [mailto:Carrie L.Bond@usace.armv.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 10:05 AM

To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ

Cc: Cassler, Constance; Miedema, Ron

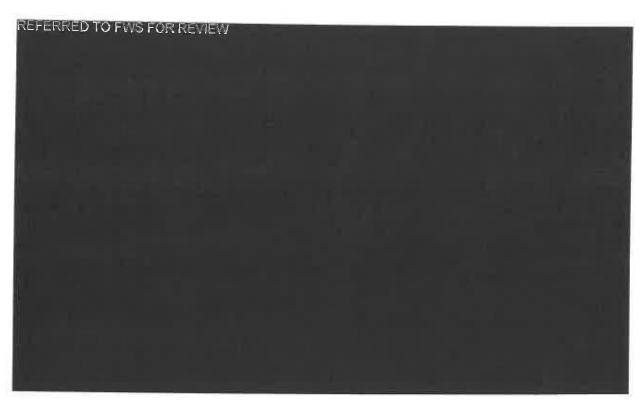
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Is there a date yet?

Carrie Bond 904-232-1061



On Mon, May 19, 2014 at 4:19 PM, Frame, Teresa M SAJ < Teresa.M.Frame@usace.army mil> wrote:

Classification; UNCLASSIFIED

Hello Ron and Connie.

The Corps received the attached prospectus for a proposed 584-acre mitigation bank in Polk County, identified as Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank. The public notice was posted May 9 and comment period ends June 8. I will email any comments to the public notice as I receive them. A site visit is required to further evaluate the proposed project and I would like to start coordinating the site visit for mid June. The consultant is available June 16, 18 or 19. If that week is not available please let me know your earliest available dates and I will coordinate with the consultant. Carrie Bond will be conducting the site visit for me so please include Carrie in any responses.

I have attached a copy of the public notice and the prospectus (minus maps and figures). The complete set of maps and figures for the prospectus cannot be emailed due to the size of the files. All maps and figures for the proposed project are available for review at the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) web address: http://ribits.usace.army-mil. To access the Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank information in RIBITS, select "Jacksonville" from the "ALL DISTRICTS" dropdown menu, click on "Existing Banks and ILF Sites", select "Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank" from the populated list, and click on "Cyber Repository" (located on upper right section of webpage) to view the prospectus and all attachments, click on the prospectus folder.

Please call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Teresa M. Frame
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
(904) 232-1677
(904) 232-1904 fax

Watch the Corps website (http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/ItemsofInterest.aspx) for dates, locations, and other information on the upcoming round of Regulatory Open Houses.

Please assist us in better serving you! Please complete the customer survey by clicking on the following link: http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Frame, Teresa M SAI

To: Subject: Miedema. Ron

Date:

RE: Osprey Unit (UNCLASSIFIED) Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:41:00 PM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hi Ron,

Glad to hear that it worked out. It really looked like some bad weather was going to be over that area. I will be back in the office tomorrow and can give you a call around 10:00am? I received several emails from the neighbor which I will send to IRT.

Teresa M. Frame
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970.
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
(904) 232-1677
(904) 232-1904 fax

----Original Message-----

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto: Miedema.Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:35 PM

To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Osprey Unit

Teresa, Today I participated in the site visit with the Lance (owner) and Jason (consultant). It turned out to be a great day both with the weather and the site visit. Need to talk when you are available.

Thanks,

Ron

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Frame, Teresa M SAI

Subject:

<u>Miedema, Ron</u> RE: Osprey Unit (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date;

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:47:00 PM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE .

11:00 am it is. I will call you at (561)616-8741 unless you prefer a different number.

----Original Message----

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto: Miedema Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:44 PM

To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Osprey Unit (UNCLASSIFIED)

11:00 am would probably be safer. (for a call)

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ < Teresa.M.Frame@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:41 PM

To: Miedema, Ron

Subject: RE: Osprey Unit (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ

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Ron

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Frame, Teresa M SA1

To: Cci

Miedema, Ron; "Constance Cassler@fws.gov" Bond, Carrie L CIV USARMY CENWP (US)

Subject:

RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date:

Friday, June 13, 2014 12:14:00 PM

Attachments:

OUMB Driving Directions.docx

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Site visit is on schedule for 10:30 on June 18. Attached are the driving directions.

Thank you, Teresa M. Frame U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division - Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019 (904) 232-1677 (904) 232-1904 fax

Watch the Corps website (http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/ItemsofInterest.aspx) for dates, locations, and other information on the upcoming round of Regulatory Open Houses.

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-Original Message-

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto:Miedema,Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 11:53 AM

To: Frame, Teresa M SAJ; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'

Cc: Bond, Carrie L SAJ

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Where are we meeting at? Still on for 10:30?

----Original Message----

From: Frame, Teresa M SAJ [mailto:Teresa M.Frame@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 4:20 PM

To: Miedema, Ron; 'Constance_Cassler@fws.gov'

Cc: Bond, Carrie L SAJ

Subject: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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Carrie Bond will be conducting the site visit for me so please include Carrie in any responses.

I have attached a copy of the public notice and the prospectus (minus maps and figures). The complete set of maps and figures for the prospectus cannot be emailed due to the size of the files. All maps and figures for the proposed project are available for review at the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) web address: http://ribits.usace.army.mil. To access the Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank information in RIBITS, select "Jacksonville" from the "ALL DISTRICTS" dropdown menu, click on "Existing Banks and ILF Sites", select "Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank" from the populated list, and click on "Cyber Repository" (located on upper right section of webpage) to view the prospectus and all attachments, click on the prospectus folder.

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Bond, Carrie L SA1

To: Cc: Miedema, Ron; "Constance Cassier@fws.gov"
Frame, Teresa Marie CIV USARMY CESA) (US)

Subject:

RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

Date: Attachments:

Friday, June 13, 2014 12:33:18 PM QUMB Driving Directions.docx

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Carrie Bond 904-232-1061

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----Original Message----

From: Miedema, Ron [mailto:Miedema.Ron@epa.gov]

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 11:53 AM

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Osprey Unit Mitigation Bank (UNCLASSIFIED)

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